

FINAL

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Arch in the Town of Marshall

and/or common Marshall Arch

2. Location

street & number Main Street (Indiana Highway 236) and Guion Street N/A not for publication

city, town Marshall N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Parke code 121

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	N/A unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Town of Marshall; Futurex Industries, Inc., and Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad

street & number 101 Guion Road Attn: D. R. Hawk, Western Div.
2815 Spring Grove Avenue

city, town Marshall, Indiana Cincinnati, Ohio 45225

N/A vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Recorder's Office

street & number Parke County Courthouse

city, town Rockville state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures

title Inventory, #121-547-00256 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Indiana Department of Natural Resources

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Identifying its town of 400 as MARSHALL, the impressive arch of wood and concrete stands as true as when it was constructed in 1921. It is located in the small but active business district where most of the traffic through Marshall, including Indiana Highway 236, passes under the structure.

With a span of 51 feet and peak clearance of 17 feet, 7 inches, the arch has never restricted the flow of present-day traffic. The clearance compares favorably to that of the overpasses of the interstate highway system, so its contribution to our locality will safely extend into the 21st century, a remarkable fact considering that the Model T and the Arch were designed at the same time in our history.

The massive wooden arch is supported on each end by a solid monolithic concrete abutment or pier that starts six feet below ground level. This extra depth is considered of critical importance in keeping the structure "in plumb" over the years. The concrete abutments are finished with stucco.

Base dimensions of the piers are 54" by 54" and they taper to 36" by 36" at the top, which is 25 feet above ground level. However, the wooden arch portion of the structure was placed into the concrete at a point 14 feet above ground. The 11 feet of extra height above where the arch rests serves a dual purpose. First, the proper placement of steel reinforcing rods is critical in the design of concrete projects with this kind of stress, and the extra height is needed so that the long rods can be placed for maximum strength as the pier must resist both push and pull pressures when supporting the arch. Rods are placed on the side nearest the arch to handle the compression forces, while rods on the back side must strengthen against the prolonged down-and-out pressures. Second, heavy support rods with turnbuckles are designed to come from near the top of each pier to the center of the arch to stabilize the curvature.

The wooden arch portion of the structure has measurements of 24" by 36" at the peak, and up to 27" by 42" at the attachment ends. Providing moisture protection is a metal covering that is flush with the edge and extending over the full span, but which is unnoticed at ground level. The wooden part is mainly white pine. All exposed surfaces have been painted white and well maintained during the 64 years of existence. Raised yellow letters--16 inches tall and edged in black--proudly spell out "MARSHALL" on each side of the arch.

The basic condition of the structure at this time is very sound. However, to bring the landmark back to its original overall appearance some masonry repairs to the stucco pier surfaces are needed.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1921

Builder/Architect Carroll O. Beeson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Marshall Arch has significance as an enduring and unique structure built by community effort for the identification of its town. It is also important as the first work of Carroll O. Beeson, who, in the 55 years to follow, would be responsible for over 300 architectural projects in West Central Indiana--mostly schools, gymnasiums and other public buildings. This initial project was designed so architecturally correct that it will remain an important landmark in western Indiana for many years.

The Arch was constructed as a result of the local businessmen challenging the young architectural student to design something to enhance the town's appearance. Beeson was a sophomore at the University of Illinois at the time and was a graduate of Marshall High School. During Christmas vacation, 1920, he submitted a plan for the arch and it was accepted. The businessmen agreed to arrange for materials and labor, although much of the labor was finally volunteered.

At that time the town of 350 supported 35 businesses that were varied and typical of farm communities of that era. They included a bank, hardware store, general store, garage, hotel, mortuary/furniture store and doctor. There were also a sawmill, creamery, lumber yard, meat market, blacksmith, tile factory, millinery, veterinarian and an attorney.

Construction of the Arch was started and completed during Beeson's summer vacation in 1921. Wagons hauled high quality creek gravel out of Roaring Creek, one mile north. Heavy forms were built for the pouring of the solid concrete piers. As the forms went up to 25 feet in the air, the ramps used in pushing full wheelbarrows became longer and more hazardous. The wheelbarrows had to be dumped over the top as the monolithic mass of concrete extended to its designed height.

When the piers were about half completed, the 51 foot wooden arch that had been fabricated by Ferguson Lumber Company of Rockville was brought to the site in two sections. It was put into place and stabilized until the piers could be completed and fully cured to take the stress. The job was completed in time for Beeson to return for his junior year and while he did not gain any college credits for the project, the experience had equipped him well for his future in architecture.

Although the Arch was not initiated as a World War I memorial, the townspeople decided after completion that such would be fitting. A dedication service was held on September 30, 1921, and the Marshall community gathered to pay tribute to its servicemen, and to appreciate the first project of Carroll O. Beeson.

The Town of Marshall is well-known over western Indiana and eastern Illinois as the "town with the Arch." With thousands of tourists visiting nearby Turkey Run and Raccoon Lake State Parks, its status as an attraction is evidenced by the number of people stopping their cars to look and take pictures. It is an unusual site in the area and truly a landmark.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Crawfordsville Journal & Review newspaper. David Smith. April 7, 1983.
Interviews with Carroll O. Beeson, February 27, 1985, and May 23, 1985.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Rockville Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References IND - Parke County

A

1	6	4	8	3	9	5	0	4	4	1	0	6	5	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

B

Zone	Easting			Northing										

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property includes the arch, the concrete piers, and the ground occupied by the piers.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert O. Swaim, President, Citizens State Bank

organization Town Board date August 10, 1985

street & number N/A telephone 317/597-2261

city or town Marshall state Indiana 47859

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 11-15-85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

Marshall Arch
Marshall, Indiana
UTM Reference: 16/483950/4410650

